

letter Dr. Giraud gave an account of the Horticultural Society's garden at Bombay, of which he is Secretary, and alluded generally to the nature of the vegetation in the neighbourhood. He also noticed the mode of instruction adopted in the Medical College at Bombay, in which he lectures on Chemistry, Materia Medica and Botany.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Description of a new family and genus of Lizards from Columbia.

By J. E. GRAY, Esq., F.R.S. &c.

THIS lizard, which has just been sent me from Hamburg, forms a peculiar family intermediate between the *Chalcides* and the *Anadiadæ*, having the smooth imbedded scales of the former and the complete feet and femoral pores of the latter.

ARGALIADÆ.

Head covered with normal regular shields; cheeks, eyelid and eyebrows shielded; lower eyelid scaly, opaque; nostrils lateral, anterior, in the centre of a single nasal plate. Body subcylindrical, sides rounded, smooth. Scales in thin, smooth, imbedded, transverse series, scarcely overlapping; of the back, sides and tail four-sided, longer than broad, in alternating series; of the belly, front of vent, and under side of tail similar, but forming longitudinal series; of the throat broader than long; of the armpits small, subirregular; of the limbs oblong, of the under side nearly granular. Limbs rather short, strong; femoral pores distinct, numerous; claws short, compressed; tail cylindrical, tapering.

Hab. Tropical America.

ARGALIA.

Like the family; toes 5·5, unequal.

Argalia marmorata. Brown, marbled with black-brown, beneath paler; throat black spotted.

Hab. Columbia. British Museum collection.

On the detection of Spirally-dotted or Scalariform Ducts, and other Vegetable Tissues in Anthracite Coal. By Prof. J. W. BAILEY, of the U. S. Military Academy.

On perusing an account of the results obtained by Schultz and Ehrenberg (Annals, vol. xvi. p. 69) in the microscopic examination of coal decarbonized by means of nitric acid and heat, I felt a desire to repeat the experiments and obtain if possible some of those "white splinters" which they found "composed of aggregated siliceous cells arranged in regular succession, of the structure of the prosenchymatous cells of wood." But just as I was about to commence the repetition of these experiments, it occurred to me that I might find the decarbonization in every stage of progress among the masses of some partially burned Pennsylvania anthracite with which a grate in my room was filled, in which the fire had been allowed to smother itself in its own ashes.